OFFICIAL

LESPÉRANCE & MARTINEAU

1440, Saint-Catherine Street West, Suite 700
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1R8
Tel.: (514) 861-4831 Fax: (514) 392-9112
Email: martineau@ii.ca

Our file: 3042-1B

Date: June 30, 2004

DUE DATE: July 2, 2004

Application No.: 10/716,597
Filed: 11/20/2003
Inventor(s):   André Meunier et al.
Title: **SNOWMOBILE SKI HAVING A SELF-STEERING KEEL ARRANGEMENT**
Examiner: BOEHLER, Anne Marie M.
Art unit: 3611

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Washington D.C. 20231

By fax @ (703) 872-9306

Sir:

This is pursuant to the Official Action dated February 4, 2004, with a delay for reply expiring July 2, 2004.

Please find herein enclosed a set of annotated claims, including original claims 1–17, currently amended claim 18 and new independent claim 19.

You are hereby authorized to debit our deposit account No. 12:110 for the amount of US $43 for the small entity fee of one (1) independent claim in excess of three (3).

Application No.: 10/716,597
Filed: 11/20/2003
Inventor(s): André Mennier et al.

It is thus the opinion of the applicant that independent claims 1, 7 or 16 should be considered patentable in light of the foregoing argumentation. Dependent claims 2-6, 8-15 and 17 should also be considered patentable since they depend directly or indirectly from either one of these independent claims 1, 7 or 16.

New independent claim 19 has been incorporated to the present application to more accurately define the scope of protection sought by the applicant. No new subject matter is incorporated to the present application by the addition of claim 19, as the method for steering a ski is fully described in the disclosure, for example on page 14, line 7 to page 18, line 12. This new claim 19 is believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

In light of the above arguments, the Applicant therefore asks the Examiner to reconsider her opinion regarding patentability of the present invention as claimed in original claims 1-18. A favourable consideration of the patentability of the new method claim 19 is also hereby requested.

In the event where only minor changes were required to process this application to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at phone number (514) 861-4831 to work by way of Examiner's amendment so as to expedite the prosecution of this application.
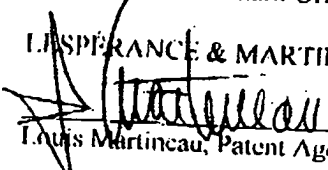
Regards,

LESPERANCE & MARTINEAU

Louis Martineau, Patent Agent #43676

It is hereby certified that this amendment paper, consisting of 16 page(s) including 8 page(s) of the present letter and the 8 annexed pages of annotated claims, is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 30, 2004.

LESPERANCE & MARTINEAU

Louis Martineau, Patent Agent #43676

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PAGE 8/16 * RCVD AT 6/30/2004 3:39:50 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/10 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:5143929112 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-22

PATENT APPLICATION FEE DETERMINATION RECORD
Effective October 1, 2003

Application or Docket Number

10716597

CLAIMS AS FILED - PART I

	(Column 1)	(Column 2)
TOTAL CLAIMS	*18*	
FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA
TOTAL CHARGEABLE CLAIMS	*18* minus 20=	* *0*
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	*3* minus 3 =	* *0*
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM PRESENT		☐

* If the difference in column 1 is less than zero, enter "0" in column 2

SMALL ENTITY TYPE ☐ **OR** **OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY**

RATE	FEE		RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE	385.00	OR	BASIC FEE	770.00
X$ 9=		OR	X$18=	
X43=		OR	X86=	
+145=		OR	+290=	
TOTAL	*385*	OR	TOTAL	

CLAIMS AS AMENDED - PART II

SMALL ENTITY OR OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY

AMENDMENT A

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	* *19*	Minus	** *20*	=
Independent	* *2*	Minus	*** *3*	= *1*
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 9=		OR	X$18=	
X43=	*13*	OR	X86=	
+145=		OR	+290=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT B

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 9=		OR	X$18=	
X43=		OR	X86=	
+145=		OR	+290=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

AMENDMENT C

	(Column 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Column 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(Column 3) PRESENT EXTRA
Total	*	Minus	**	=
Independent	*	Minus	***	=
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM				☐

RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE		RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
X$ 9=		OR	X$18=	
X43=		OR	X86=	
+145=		OR	+290=	
TOTAL ADDIT. FEE		OR	TOTAL ADDIT. FEE	

* If the entry in column 1 is less than the entry in column 2, write "0" in column 3.
** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter "20."
*** If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter "3."
The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in column 1.